

# Restoration Initiatives at INFINITY Science Center

## Phase III Early Restoration

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Restoration Initiatives at the INFINITY Science Center project's goal is to restore lost recreational use by providing increased access to coastal estuarine habitats, wildlife viewing areas, and educational features. The project enhancing and expanding a state-of-the-art interactive science, education, interpretive, and research center for use by visitors seeking to experience and learn about the coastal natural resources of the Gulf of Mexico. The project also serves as a launching point for a comprehensive scenic byway trail system that can take visitors to beaches and tidal coastal estuarine environments.

Completed in 2018, the project includes the installation of eleven new indoor interactive exhibits about the Gulf of Mexico, including marsh ecosystems, satellites, watersheds, wetlands, oceanography, Gulf species, hurricanes, and environmental monitoring. Using computers, simulations and graphics, the public can experience how scientists model and study the Gulf's ecosystem.

A new indoor Carnivorous Plants Conservatory exhibit and associated outdoor greenhouse allow visitors to observe over 200 species of native carnivorous plants.

The Heritage Trail-Possum Walk was improved by limestone surfacing and a tram tour system was developed to bring visitors through multiple coastal habitats that occur throughout the immediate area, including marsh, bayhead swamp, cypress swamp, and pine flatwoods. The new 1,400 ft. Biome Boardwalk allows visitors to explore three unique ecosystems including pitcher plant bogs, bayhead swamps, and lowland pines.

### ESTIMATED COST:

\$10,400,000

